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Attn: Truc T. Nguyen
Art Unit 2833
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application/Control Number 10/630,676 – Electrical Pivotal Connector

Applicant: Anthony Mamas

Examiner: Truc T. Nguyen

Date Considered: 2/4/04

Date: 3/17/04

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicant recently received Examiner's **Office Action Summary** (hereinafter referred to as "OAS") regarding the above referenced application. The mailing stamp on the envelope that contained the OAS indicates the date of March 1, 2004. Applicant has made a copy for Examiner's records and convenience.

In paragraph number 4 of the OAS it was indicated that applicant's claim is pending in the application. In paragraph number 6 of the OAS, it was indicated that applicant's claim was rejected.

The primary reasoning dealt with the reference of Huang (US 6,394,824 - hereinafter referred to as "Huang") wherein examiner stated that applicant's claim was rejected as being anticipated since Huang discloses an electrical connector plug comprising of: a pivotal lever (**20**), a barrier (un-numbered, a portion that accommodated pivot member **21**), and an opposing force (un-numbered, a coil member disposed between portion **24** and **33**, see figure 6).

Applicant submits that there is no justification in Huang, or in any other prior art separate from applicant's disclosure which suggests that examiner's reference be viewed in the manner proposed by examiner. The reference and applicant's application take mutually exclusive paths and reach different solutions to different problems. Applicant's application deals with the problem of connector lever breakage and strain and Huang's invention deals with the problem of "providing a reliable electrical connection as well as grounding" – see Huang's "Summary of the Invention". Applicant would like to present the below positions for differentiating Huang from applicant's application.

With regards to the Huang electrical connector plug, it is apparent that the anticipated design and drawings are intended for electrical devices other than a telephone jack. In Huang's "Description of the Prior Art", reference is made to figures 8A and 8B which disclose an approach suggested by Small Form Factor Committee on the HSSDC-2, SFF-8421, Page 17. In other words, high speed serial data connectors – not telephone jacks.

In Huang's "Summary of the Invention" section it is stated that:

"It is an object of this invention to provide an electrical connector in which a plastic latch and grounding device are separately formed thereon to provide a reliable electrical connection as well as grounding".

This is a primary function of Huang's device. In Huang's invention, there is also a grounding tab 30 which includes "a pair of leg portions". On the other hand, applicant's application does not deal specifically with grounding nor with the design comprising of "anchoring legs" or spring arms 32 that are "interconnected by a link" or "also electrically connecting with inner upper wall of the receptacle".

Applicant would like to further address more specifically the areas that examiner indicated were anticipated by Huang – the pivotal lever, barrier and the matter of opposing force.

PIVOTAL LEVER (20): In Huang's "Summary of the Drawings", a plastic latch is described that includes an anchoring shaft rotationally received in the supporting socket of the lower half. Huang's claim states that there are two halves of the electrical connector wherein a latch is pivotally assembled to the said supporting socket of the said lower half. Huang also claims an interengaging means formed between the upper and lower halves include a pair of recesses and a pair of anchoring legs extended outward from said upper half and snugly received in the said recesses.

Applicant's claim on the other hand is "a pivoting lever not formed integrally with the electrical connector plug housing, but is attached thereto". In addition, applicant does not mention upper or lower halves nor that there are any anchoring legs that extend outwards and received into recesses. Therefore, applicant's pivotal lever claim is differentiated from Huang's pivotal latch claim.

BARRIER (21): Huang's claim is apparently devoid of mentioning a barrier specifically. In examiner's reference to an un-numbered portion that accommodated pivot member 21, Huang stated:

"A plastic latch 20 includes an anchoring shaft 21 rotationally received in the supporting socket 11b of the lower half 11."

Applicant's "Detailed Description of the Invention", on the other hand, specifically indicates that:

"Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, there is shown the housing **3** of the connector plug where the front end of the housing next to the pivotal lever **1** *forms a barrier, thereby acting as a stopper to the pivotal lever 1* when the lever is released from compression." (emphasis added).

In addition, applicant's claim states that the front end of the plug housing forms a barrier against the pivoting lever thereby acting as a stopper when the lever is released from compression. Therefore, applicant's barrier claim is differentiated from Huang.

OPPOSING FORCE (24,33): Examiner referenced an un-numbered portion where a coil member is disposed between portion **24** and **33** referencing figure 6 in Huang's patent.

In applicant's "Detailed Description of the Invention" applicant indicates that compression of the pivoting lever **1** is against a matter of opposing force and that a spring **2** was shown *as illustrative purposes* (emphasis added) as a matter of opposing force.

Moreover, applicant's claim states a "matter of opposing force" connected or held in place to the pivotal lever, the housing itself or both the lever and the housing. Applicant submits that little rubber or plastic tabs or stoppers may be used for this purpose and not only a spring. Therefore, applicant's matter of opposing force claim is differentiated from Huang.

CONCLUSION

In the context of the above and based on the fact that applicant's application is an improvement of an electrical connector plug used to connect electrical cords to a jack of a telephone, computer or other electrical device or terminal, applicant respectfully requests that examiner re-examine and reconsider applicant's application.

The novel features of applicant's claim are new, unobvious and patentable over the reference cited. These new and unexpected results are the ability of applicant's invention to limit strain and consequent breakage of the lever portion of the connector plug, particularly with regards to plastic electric connector levers which are delicate in nature. Applicant submits that the results achieved by the application are distinguishable, new, superior and novel.

For all the above reasons, applicant submits that the claim is in condition for allowance and approval which action applicant respectfully requests.

CONDITIONAL REQUEST

In the alternative, applicant would respectfully request the examiner draft acceptable claim(s) pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) and to contact me with regards to its wording.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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